



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 31, 2006

FACT SHEET

SANDERS REAFFIRMS EFFORT TO CHANGE HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING CRITERIA FOR NEXT YEAR

\$ 8 MILLION FY06 GRANT AWARD BASED ON FLAWED LOGIC: BORDERS & MILITARY NOT INCLUDED

Mayor Jerry Sanders today reaffirmed his efforts to change the Homeland Security funding criteria so that next year San Diego can receive additional funds and get back on a primary funding list. Because of the short-time frame between the announcement of the new methodology in January and the funding announcements that were made today, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was not able to make any changes to the criteria this year. This is the first year that DHS used this rating methodology.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced earlier today that the San Diego region would be receiving \$7.9 million over the next year as part of the Department's Urban Area Security Initiative (or USAI) grants. This year, the region received \$14.7 million. Mayor Sanders has led the region's lobbying efforts to change the funding methodology and increase the amount for next year.

The reduction in funding comes as the result of two reasons:

1. Nationwide funding for USAI grants was cut by \$122 million: from \$855 million in FY05 to \$733 million in FY06.
2. In January, DHS announced that it was changing the way in which risk is measured for the 46 urban areas that are part of the program to a complicated algorithm that factors in millions of factors.

Based upon inquiries from the mayor and the region's Congressional delegation, DHS admitted that, in San Diego's case, their new formula had not factored in: 1) the presence of the border; or 2) the military. As a result, the San Diego region was not included in a list of

35 “primary” funding urban areas. Instead, the region was included in a list of 11 “sustainment” funding urban areas.

Mayor Sanders, in close partnership with the region’s Congressional delegation, has led the lobbying effort to change the formula for next year so that DHS will factor in the presence of the border and the military. As a result, the region’s funding amount would potentially increase in future years.

USE OF THE \$ 8 MILLION USAI GRANT MONEY

The San Diego region will use approximately \$5.08 of the \$8 million for Interoperable Communications and Connectivity and the remaining approximately \$3 million for Regional Information/Data Standards and Systems. The amount can be used over a two year period of time.

INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS AND CONNECTIVITY

- The purpose of this investment is to enhance regional communications and data connectivity. It will provide communications infrastructure equipment and information systems, updated and interoperable voice communications, and replace communications networks and equipment.

REGIONAL INFORMATION/DATA STANDARDS AND SYSTEMS

- The purpose of this investment is to provide collaboration and information sharing capabilities among the San Diego Urban Area (SDUA) first responders and emergency management personnel through strategic coordination and purchasing of information sharing systems and equipment.
- The investment will support regional data sharing by implementing new information systems, connecting disparate systems and providing equipment and training for system use.

THE PUSH FOR FY07 FUNDING/CHANGE IN STATUS TO “PRIMARY” FUNDING URBAN AREA

- Mayor Sanders has led the push for DHS to change the funding methodology used to calculate risk. This year – becomes of the lack of time -- DHS did not factor in the presence of military bases or the border, after those two inadequacies were brought to their attention.
- Working in close collaboration with the state’s two Federal senators and the region’s Congressional delegation, Mayor Sanders has met with DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff and Deputy Secretary Michael Jackson as well as officials at the White House, to impress upon them the need for a change in the funding methodology.
- The Mayor believes that the region is deserving of funds because of the large regional military presence; the presence and proximity of the border; the fact that downtown San Diego sits on a bay open to vessels; our bayside convention center and popular tourist

attractions; a 6 million person combined San Diego-Tijuana population; and the presence of a several nuclear facilities, including the plant at San Onofre.